

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1619

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John William Mitchell on the occasion of his posthumous induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, agriculture has been a cornerstone of Wilson County since the county's founding in 1799, and those citizens involved in farming have always been a vital part of the community; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we specially recognize those outstanding citizens who dedicated their lives to promoting the importance of agriculture in our society; and

WHEREAS, the late John William Mitchell was one such individual; he has been posthumously inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame in recognition of his hard work and commitment to continuing the legacy of the family farm in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, while attending Lebanon High School, Mr. Mitchell was active in FFA and 4-H and enjoyed showing cattle; and

WHEREAS, after graduation, he farmed in the evenings and on weekends while working as an automobile mechanic during the day; he eventually gained employment as a mechanic with the Wilson County Road Commission and worked there until he retired; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Mr. Mitchell co-founded the Wilson County Antique Power Association, which still hosts an annual show in Fiddlers Grove and operates the sawmill during the Wilson County Fair; and

WHEREAS, a member of the International Harvester Collectors Club, Mr. Mitchell served as an officer in the organization from 2002 to 2010; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, he and his beloved wife and companion in life, Debbie Doebler Mitchell, traveled to Pennsylvania to make a proposal for Lebanon to host the 1996 Red Power

Round Up; they were successful in their mission, and the event surpassed all expectations, with more than 600 tractors on exhibit and more than 15,000 spectators from forty-eight states and four foreign countries in attendance; and

WHEREAS, the Red Power Round Up returned to Lebanon in 2005, with Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell serving as co-chairs, and once again, the event was a huge success; and

WHEREAS, after Mr. Mitchell's death, Debbie Mitchell donated several items in his memory for display in the Heritage Barn, including his 1936 Farmall F-12, a steel-wheel tractor that had been completely restored by Mr. Mitchell; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame honors those dedicated citizens who have committed their lives to developing and maintaining the highest standards and principles in their chosen vocation, and it is fitting that we honor Mr. Mitchell's valuable service to agriculture and the farming community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of John William Mitchell upon the occasion of his posthumous induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame, reflecting fondly upon his many contributions to upholding the agricultural traditions of Wilson County and the State of Tennessee and his love of antique tractors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.